

1103. *Perisporium vulgare*, Corda, fasc. 2. fig. 97.

On old rope. Batheaston, Nov. 1864.

Sporidia in chains of four, .00025 inch long when separated; asci with a delicate stem.

[To be continued.]

XLVIII.—*A Contribution to the Ichthyology of West Africa.*

By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER.

THE British Museum has lately received a small collection of West-African fishes, a part of which deserve some attention, inasmuch as they appear to be undescribed, or at least new to that fauna. We do not know the exact locality where these specimens have been obtained, but it is probable that they are from the Niger. The collection contained, besides other well-known West-African species, large examples of *Lates** *niloticus*, *Clarotes laticeps*, and *Citharinus latus*, which had been known hitherto from the Nile only; also *Distichodus rostratus* and *Alestes macrolepidotus*, and, finally, the common Indian *Drepane punctata*.

The following are new :—

Synodontis guttatus†.

D. 1/7. A. 12. P. 1/10. V. 8.

The gill-opening extends downwards to before the root of the pectoral fin. Mandibular teeth shorter than the eye, about thirty in number. Maxillary barbels about as long as the head, not fringed; mandibular barbels provided with filaments, the outer ones much shorter than the head. The length of the head is rather less than two-sevenths of the total length (without caudal). Nuchal carapace not much arched, longer than broad; its posterior processes extend somewhat behind the dorsal spines. Dorsal spine a little longer than that of the pectoral fin, but shorter than the head; both these spines smooth in front. Humeral process nearly twice as long as high, pointed behind. The distance between the dorsal and adipose fins equals the length of the latter, which is nearly as long as the head. Body

* The genus *Lates* has been described as being without pseudobranchiæ. However, it may be seen in large specimens that these organs are present, although the fringes are extremely short and may be easily overlooked; they are well developed in *Lates colonorum*.

† I take this opportunity of directing attention to the misplacement of the heading "*B. Mandibular teeth not longer than the eye*," in p. 212 of the 5th vol. of the Catalogue of Fishes. It should stand before "*3. Synodontis serratus*," instead of before "*4. Synodontis schal*," as indeed is evident from the remarks made on these two species in p. 210.

with numerous brown spots, which are small and rounded on the hinder part of the tail and on the adipose fin.

The single specimen is stuffed, and 29 inches long.

Synodontis labeo.

D. 1/7. A. 12. P. 1/9. V. 7.

This species is very similar to *S. xiphias*; but the snout terminates in a large, soft, globular swelling, instead of a conical pointed process. Humeral process twice as long as broad, with an obtuse point behind, slightly turned upwards. Angle of the mouth with a black cutaneous flap or prominence (shrivelled up in our specimen).

In all other characters this remarkable species agrees with *S. xiphias*, as far as we can see from the single stuffed example in the collection; it is 33 inches long.

XLIX.—On the Sexes of the Alcyonaria.

By M. LACAZE-DUTHIERS*.

NATURALISTS have paid less attention to the reproduction of the Coralliaria than to their external characters. At this we may justly feel surprised, when we consider that in other divisions of zoophytes the study of the phenomena which govern the preservation of the species has led to the most important discoveries.

In the different memoirs that I have presented to the Academy I have endeavoured to make known the sexual conditions which are met with in widely separated types, such as *Corallum*, *Antipathes*, *Gerardia*, &c. In the present paper, leaving on one side the isolated species, I propose to give a summary of the more general facts relating to the very natural division of the *Alcyonaria*; and for this purpose I shall take my examples partly from the species in which the zoanthodema is fixed, and partly from the *Pennatulidæ*, of which the polyparies always remain free.

In *Corallum* the genital glands are sometimes separated, sometimes united, either in the same polype or in the same zoanthodema; but, although hermaphroditism sometimes occurs, it must be confessed that the separation of the sexes appears to be the most usual condition; it appears even to become the general rule in the entire group of the *Alcyonaria*, if we may judge from the following genera and species—*Gorgonia subtilis*, *G. tuberculata*, *Muricea placomus*, *M. violacea*, *Primnoa verticil-*

* Translated by W. S. Dallas, F.L.S., from the 'Comptes Rendus' for April 24, 1865.